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While cuts to the library's budget began over the summer, the full impacts will likely not be felt until the start of 2021.

'Contrary to our ethos': Deep budget cuts force librarians to make tough decisions

By SARAH MILLER
Contributing Writer

In a semester fraught with unforeseen challenges, students and professors will have to contend with one more obstacle: cuts to the library budget. A 25% cut was initially announced in early July and further reductions were made in the fall.

Waiting to finalize cuts until the first quarter of the fiscal year is highly unusual, but things are "a little more fluid than usual" this year, according to Collection Development Librarian Douglas Black.

The cuts to the library are part of the 33% cut that all Academic Affairs departments have experienced, according to Dean of Faculty Sujata Moorti. Though it was a "painful process," Moorti said the measure was put into place to maintain wage continuity.

Unlike some peer NESCAC schools and other similar colleges, Middlebury has not laid off staff members. "The college made what I feel was a very humane decision to protect staff," Library Dean Mike Roy told The Campus.

The library eliminated all professional development, travel and food, but the bulk of the cuts come from the collections budget, which makes up the majority of the library's annual allocation. The collections budget faced a 34% reduction, which has resulted in the library canceling subscriptions to 58 databases and collections.

"I've had to make some very hard choices," Roy said. "It sort of runs contrary to our ethos which is to say 'yes' and be as helpful as we can, so it's been hard to make this change."

Black said the Collections team had numerous factors in mind when deciding which collections and databases to cut. They tried to "spread the pain" so no department was disproportionately hit, kept resources that were unique or central to a discipline and analyzed usage data to determine which resources served the broadest sector of the community.

Anticipating the effect of the cuts, the library also increased the budget of the Interlibrary Loan program (ILL). This increase had to be offset with a slightly deeper cut to other library resources. The ILL allows students or professors to request and receive books, articles or journals from other colleges that Middlebury library does not have in its collection.

Professors and students are already beginning to feel the impact of these cuts. When Laurie Essig, director and professor of gender, sexuality, and feminist studies, designed her syllabus in August, she added two e-books that were in the library's collection. By September, they were gone.

"It seems to me a library would be essential to what a college does," Es-

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1619 or 1776?: Hamilton Forum debate on legacy of slavery draws protest

By WILL ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

Two visiting scholars, Leslie Harris and Lucas Morel, spoke last week about the founding of America and the legacy of slavery. Titled "1619 or 1776: Was America Founded on Slavery?", the debate was hosted by the Alexander Hamilton Forum and sparked controversy among students.

Harris, a professor of history and African American studies at Northwestern University and a fact-checker for The New York Times Magazine's groundbreaking "1619 Project," a series of essays documenting the consequences of slavery, represented the 1619 school of thought, arguing that slavery is inseparable from the American project.

Morel, a professor of politics at Washington and Lee University and the author of several books on Ralph Ellison and Abraham Lincoln — most recently "Lincoln and the American Founding" — presented the 1776 school of thought, arguing that the founding of the United States, though a slave-owning nation, was not rooted in racial hierarchies, and its founders intended an incremental approach to abolition.

The debate was held over Zoom and was moderated by Professors of Political Science Keegan Callanan and Gary Winslett. Over 200 students, faculty and community members attended the event.

Beginning the debate, Harris argued that the arrival of 20 slaves near Jamestown in August of 1619 marked America's true beginning: the birth of a nation that would develop an insidious dependency on "African slave labor as an engine of wealth creation."

As Harris put it, "1776 was impossible without 1619." The nation's very identity was defined by overt "poisonous racism that claimed everyone was not equal, while secular and religious ideals stated the opposite." She concluded by reaffirming the current anti-racist climate of American culture and the lessons to be learned by understanding the nation's relationship with slavery as it manifests in injustices like police brutality.

"When I stand at the altar of history, I am not arro-

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COURTESY PHOTO

A screenshot from the virtual Hamilton Forum debate "1619 or 1776: Was America Founded on Slavery?" shows speakers, organizers, attendees and protestors. Protestors changed their avatars on Zoom to an edited version of the event's poster.

LOCAL

Covid-19 outbreak of 26 cases in Addison County linked to Champlain Orchards

By RILEY BOARD
Managing Editor

Twenty-six new Covid-19 cases were reported Monday, Oct. 5 in Addison County by the Vermont Department of Health, a striking number in a state that consistently reports just a handful of cases per day. The 26 cases are related to an outbreak among migrant farmworkers at Champlain Orchards in Shoreham, about 20 minutes from the college. Currently, one of those workers is hospitalized, and many are not showing symptoms.

The Health Department officials say the public and college aren't at risk. The college has yet to make a public statement about the outbreak.

At an Oct. 5 press conference, the state's Health Commissioner Mark Levine said that the outbreak is being contained.

"At this time there is no known risk to the public. If you've been apple picking in the past couple of weeks or visited the farmstand, you are not at risk," Levine said.

State Epidemiologist Patsy Kelso explained that they are confident that no member of the public who picked their own apples at Champlain Orchards is at risk, because of a thorough contact tracing process and a review of the processes at the orchard.

Levine says that after one worker at the farm tested positive, the state set up a testing site at Champlain Orchards. Contract tracing is underway, and the owner of the orchard is collaborating with the state.

All of the individuals who tested positive were migrant farm workers, many of them H-2A visa holders from Jamaica. The H-2A program brings seasonal migrant workers, primarily from the Caribbean, for

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OPINION

Why I organized the '1619 or 1776' event

By GARY WINSLETT

I serve as co-convener of the Hamilton Forum this year, as the Forum's director is on sabbatical. Last week, the Forum hosted an event with a leading American historian and a leading political theorist to discuss the relationship of slavery to the American founding. Although over 200 individuals attended the event on Zoom, many will have only heard of it through various social media posts and letters written before the event occurred. Therefore, some background may be helpful.

Last August, the 1619 Project was released. It is a thought-provoking, engaging collection of essays in the "New York Times Magazine" that seeks to re-center slavery in broader society's mental map of American political development. It took a while, but I read every essay in the collection and found it a really rewarding exercise. Within the 1619 Project, I found some essays and passages more effective than others. For example, I was fascinated and persuaded by Jeneen Interlandi's essay on health care and also thought Nikita Stewart's piece on slavery in public education was great, but I found Matthew Desmond's essay on capitalism to be overly reductive and unpersuasive (despite loving his book "Evicted"). It seemed to me that other people would also have parts of the collection that they liked better and parts that they were more critical of, and so it was a collection around which enlightening conversation and good-faith disagreement could be had. This was a factor that suggested to me that a public event could be held on this topic without garnering any significant protest.

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OPINION

We still have questions for the Hamilton Forum

By CLAIRE CONTRERAS, DIVYA GUDUR & MADISON HOLLAND

Last week, we worked with students from all over campus to stage a protest against the Alexander Hamilton Forum's debate, "1619 or 1776: Was America Founded on Slavery?" We protested the event because we find the mission, funding and history of the AHF — as well as the topic and title of the event — purposefully inflammatory, harmful to our BIPOC peers and a continuation of the institutional and systemic racism that Middlebury upholds. This is not the opinion of just a few students. At the time of publishing this op-ed, our open letter addressed to the Senior Leadership Group received 647 student and 107 alumni signatures. Since none of us were called on during the question and answer section of the debate, we still have a few unanswered questions:

1. A major financial contributor to the AHF is the Jack Miller Center, which was originally a part of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI). The ISI's stated mission is to promote limited government, individual liberty, the free market economy and traditional values. The ISI also receives $8 million in funding from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, and, while the Jack Miller Center became independent in 2007, it's safe to say they are both very much part of the network of right-wing think tanks. The ISI is also an associate member of the State Policy Network, which is funded by the Koch Brothers and coordinates and supplies resources for its members to help promote a conservative policy agenda. How can we expect to have open and honest conversations about race when the organizations sponsoring them are so thoroughly implicated in the systems that perpetuate institutional racism?

2. Given that Professor Keegan Callanan, the director of the AHF, is a council member on the National Endowment for the Humanities — a committee that is part of the Trump Administration's push for "pro-America" "patriotic" curricula through the 1776 Commission — doesn't Callanan's simultaneous involvement in this debate and the 1776 Commission present a conflict of interest?

3. Middlebury has a well-documented history of inflammatory speakers, many of which have been met with fierce resistance from the student body. But this summer, Middlebury publicly committed to anti-racism. Is hosting a debate that questions the very role that slavery played in this country's founding anti-racist? Will the college ever pay more than just lip service to

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NEWS

Black Studies program brings Daphne Brooks to talk protest music in inaugural lecture
By CARINNA KINNAMAN

Students navigate mail-in voting ahead of contentious election
By TONY SJODIN

SGA Finance Committee allots student activities funding even as 'activities' takes on new meanings
By CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN

How does contact tracing work at Middlebury?
By TONY SJODIN

Mail Center relocates to the warehouse to ensure social distancing
By EMILY HOGAN

Students face reduced on-campus employment opportunities and new job responsibilities
By ROYA TOURAN

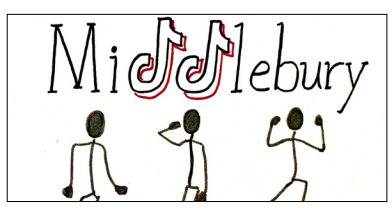
Remote professors tinker with course content and build virtual communities
By CHARLIE KEOHANE

LOCAL

Sheldon Museum takes on new projects after pandemic closes doors to public
By GIULIA SHAUGHNESSY

Ilsley Public Library photo contest challenges community to look at Middlebury through a new lens
By HAEUN PARK

ARTS & CULTURE



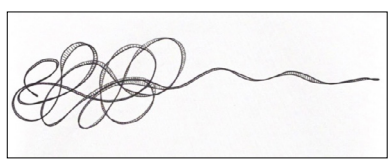
Did you spend your quarantine getting into TikTok? You're not alone.
By EMMA AUER

"I'm Thinking of Ending Things": Condescensions, pretensions and cutesiness in one
By JOHN VAALER

Reel Critic: 'John Lewis: Good Trouble'
By NINA NG

OPINION

Racial justice is impossible without institutional support
By EDITORIAL BOARD



Living with severe obsessive-compulsive disorder
By HALEY HUTCHINSON

On getting lost in it all
By MEGHAN KEATING

MASK OFF, MIDD: I quarantine-dated Casper the Ghost.
By MARIA KAOURIS

SPORTS

Jamie Mittelman '10 celebrates female Olympians in new podcast
By NIAMH CARTY

Siefer's Scoop Episode 5: Eli Drachman '24, men's swim & dive
By BLAISE SIEFER

This day in 1983, defense stymies Amherst despite injuries
By MICHAEL SEGEL